Considerations for your School's Travel Plan

Your first step to creating your school travel plan is to consult the Vermont Travel Plan Guide with your school travel plan team or the VT SRTS Resource Center. This following list of engineering considerations will help you focus on important elements that will help everyone get to school safely.

Existing Conditions Assessment

1. **Identify specific routes to school**. By establishing set routes, these areas can be monitored and maintained for safety, corrective measures regarding hazard and provide ADA accessibility.
2. **Inventory signage and pavement markings along school routes and confirm that all comply with** the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control. Check not only the sign type, but material, design, text height, and installation requirements.
3. **Confirm if school speed limit ordinances are on file with your town.** Additionally, confirm that the speed limit on file is either a standard speed limit or a school hours speed limit, depending on your plan goals.

Design Considerations

4. **Identify the proper location of crosswalks**. Crosswalks proposed at locations away from traffic signals and STOP signs are subject to an engineering study. Crossings and landings must be ADA compliant and serviceable year-round (snow plowing is a must). Please refer to the Vermont Agency of Transportation – Guideline for Installation of Crosswalk Markings and Pedestrian Signing at Marked and Unmarked Crossing.
5. **Create a plan for safety on the school site.** Promoting walking and biking to school should start with creating safe and convenient access on school property. Maintaining order and reducing conflicts on the school site will assist in promoting good driving and walking behaviors by both parents and students. For more information please refer to Traffic Safety Planning on School Sites.
6. **Establish a designated area for bus drop off**, separate from parent drop-off if possible.
7. **Make sure that all proposed school routes are ADA compliant, including shoulders where utilized.** Sufficient travel width, maneuvering space at intersections, and cross-slope are all key considerations. Accessibility Information can be found in the VT Pedestrian and Bicycle Facility Planning and Design Manual.
8. **Consider what type of vehicles also utilize school routes and ensure proper lane widths and turning radii to protect pedestrians that may be in the shoulder or waiting to cross at intersections.** Streets should allow large vehicles to meet without swerving into the shoulders or oncoming travel lanes. Proper turning radii need to be established to accommodate buses maneuvering through intersections.

Implementation Considerations

9. **Equip crossing guards or school personnel managing arrival and drop off activities with high visibility apparel** to wear on duty (ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 Type Class 2 High visibility Apparel).
10. **Create a plan to maintain school routes year-round.** This includes maintaining pedestrian walkways and crosswalks so that they are free of snow and debris year-round, and accessible for people with limited mobility.